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Atty. Dkt. No. 028622-0108

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Peter Jungblut et al.
 Title: IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIFIC DIFFERENTIALLY EXPRESSED MYCOBACTERIAL ANTIGENS
 Appl. No.: unassigned
 Filing Date: concurrently herewith
 Examiner: unassigned
 Art Unit: unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
 Box Patent Application
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present application, Applicant respectfully requests that the above-identified prior application be amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Kindly cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice or disclaimer and add the following claims:

27. A composition comprising at least one protein which is differentially expressed in a virulent strain as compared to an avirulent strain of the genus *Mycobacterium*.

28 The composition of claim 27, wherein said strains are selected from the group consisting of *M. tuberculosis*, *M. bovis*, *M. avium*, *M. africanum*, *M. kansasii*, *M. intracellulare*, *M. ulcerans*, *M. paratuberculosis*, *M. simiae*, *M. scrofulaceum*, *M. szulgai*, *M. xenopi*, *M. fortuitum*, *M. chelonae*, *M. leprae* and *M. marinum*.

29. The composition of claim 27, wherein said protein is differentially expressed in the virulent strain, *M. tuberculosis*, as compared to the avirulent strain, *M. bovis*.